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The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Major Powers Cannot Agree

Opinion Is Divided Over Responsibility for the Prolonged Stalemate

ALL peace-loving people are concerned over the continued lack of harmony among the great nations. The breakdown of the Paris conference of foreign ministers has provided the latest example of the wide gulf separating Russia and the western powers. Who is responsible for the prolonged stalemate among the leading allies?

Many think that Russia alone is to blame. They say that the Soviet Union makes unreasonable demands, that it is out for conquest and that a war between Russia and the western nations is inevitable.

Others argue that the British are equally stubborn, that America has made the mistake of always siding with Britain, and that a real attempt to iron out differences in a cooperative spirit might be successful.

Our newspapers have not been as helpful as they might have been in assisting the public to understand these issues. On the whole they have done a poor job of reporting the facts concerning our number one international problem: the problem of our relations with the Soviet Union.

A few newspapers, though only a few, take the position that Russia is always right and present the news in such a way as to favor that country. They are critical of any policy which stands in the way of Soviet ambitions.

A larger number of papers go to the other extreme. They seem to want war with Russia, or, at any rate, to think that it is inevitable, and they give a great deal of space to any of Russia's actions which seem to be aggressive.

Other newspapers, and there are (Concluded on page 2)



NEW HORIZONS FOR VETERANS. What part will the veteran play in shaping the future of the United States? ESKINE IN NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

Role of Veterans in U. S. Today

Organizations of Ex-Service Men and Women Are Exerting an Increasing Influence Over the Political and Economic Affairs of the United States

THERE are now about 12,000,000 men and women who are eligible to wear the small golden eagles which show that they have been honorably discharged from the armed services. Add to them approximately 4,000,000 ex-servicemen of previous wars, and the total number of veterans in the United States today is in the neighborhood of 16,000,000.

Beyond the fact that these men and women served in the armed forces during wartime, they have no more in common otherwise than do ordinary Americans. They represent every social class, every economic group, and practically every family in the nation. They include farmers and factory workers, businessmen and government

officials, miners and foresters, professional people and office employees. Some are rich and some are poor. Among them can be found individuals who adhere to almost every shade of political, social, and religious belief.

Because of their great variety of backgrounds, ideas, and occupations, the majority of veterans do not look upon themselves as a special group apart from civilians. They think largely in terms of the occupational groups to which they belong. Thus, a large number of the veterans have joined unions; many others are members of business or professional organizations.

A considerable number of former service men and women, however, feel

a strong bond of interest because of the fact that they did serve together in wartime. They feel that veterans—as a group—should continue to work together in time of peace. For one thing, they contend that civilians during the war gained many economic advantages over those who served in the armed forces, and thus that veterans should organize and see to it that they get a fair deal for the extra sacrifices which they made. In addition, they believe that those people who were called upon for military service should now play a prominent role in deciding national policies. Veterans, according to this viewpoint, should unite in taking action to influence leaders and laws.

As a result of this line of thinking, a large number of veterans—close to a third of the total—have organized into special groups. Many have joined older veteran organizations, such as the American Legion. More than 200 new groups, however, have sprung up during and since World War II. But most of these are small local organizations.

Of all the veteran groups in the country, there are five which stand out in national prominence. Let us take a glance at each one, and briefly examine the general program for which it stands.

The American Legion is the largest and strongest veteran organization in the country, and has been most of the time since World War I. Founded in 1919 it now claims a membership close to 3,000,000.

In recruiting new members, the Legion has a long head start on newer veteran groups. It is a wealthy organization—worth an estimated \$200,000,000. It has the prestige of size

(Concluded on page 8)



W. E. Myer

months that have passed to see how well you have been doing, and how you may profit from your successes or failures. If your record has been good, if your grades have been high and if you have done well in outside work, you are to be congratulated. You are succeeding at your first job, that of a student, and there is a good prospect that you will be equally successful in the positions you will hold later in life.

But you cannot afford to be satisfied with what you have done. The better your mind is, the greater are your responsibilities. By increasing your efforts, by working harder than you have

Taking Stock of Yourself

By Walter E. Myer

ever worked, you can become a real leader, and leaders are badly needed in this troubled world.

The problems which rise before us in our own country and in our international relations are too much for ordinary people. They can be solved only if people of superior ability are willing to work tirelessly for the public good as well as for their own advancement.

Suppose, however, that your record in school is not a good one. If your grades have been poor and your work has not been satisfactory, what are you to do about it? My first suggestion is that you should not be discouraged. Don't give up and assume that you can never do well. You are too young for that. Your life still lies before you and there is plenty of time to get on the right road.

There is plenty of time provided you use it. Find out why your record was unsatisfactory. Possibly you didn't really try, didn't work hard enough. Or you may not have followed the best habits of study. Or you may need to enroll in different subjects, giving your attention to courses in which you have greater interest. Talk things over with your teachers, find out what is wrong, and profit by your mistakes. Mistakes and failures are serious only when we do not use them as lessons to guide our future conduct.

If you have been a failure in your work during the school year, use the summer months to catch up so that you will be ready for a fresh start in September. If you have done well during the year, use the vacation period to push ahead toward acknowledged leadership.

Allied Split

(Concluded from page 1)

many of them, are not definitely pro-Russian or anti-Russian, but they lean toward sensationalism. They emphasize disputes among the nations, rather than accord, because the report of quarrels is more exciting than the stories of constructive acts and compromises.

There are newspapers, of course, which try to give a balanced picture of international problems. There are magazines which do the same thing, and by reading them and certain books, one may obtain a thoughtful analysis of Russia's present actions and of her major goals and intentions.

Fact number one is that the Soviet Union has before it a big job of home development. Russia is a very large country—more than three times the size of continental United States. This vast nation is rich in natural resources. It is hard to measure undeveloped resources, but it is generally believed that Russia has more coal than any other nation; that she has more than half of the world's iron ore deposits and more than half of all of the earth's oil deposits. Her timber supply is greater than that of any other nation, and she is well supplied with most products needed by industry.

Need to Be Developed

These resources are, however, undeveloped. For example, in 1944, the last year for which figures are available, Russia produced only a sixth as much petroleum as was produced in the United States. Her production of iron was far below ours, and her steel production in 1940 was less than a fourth that of the United States. The extent to which Russia is undeveloped industrially is indicated by the fact that while her area is three times that of the United States, she has less than one-fourth the miles of railway that our country possesses.

Russia has resources which, if fully developed, would make her a mighty industrial nation, but she has a long way to go before that possibility is realized. The job would be big enough if her territory had not been overrun by invaders, and if her industries had not undergone destruction in the war. However, she suffered tremendous losses during the war, and before she can go far toward increasing her industrial strength she must do a great deal of repair work.

We get an idea of the size of this repair task when we learn that 6 million homes, occupied by 25 million persons, were destroyed during the war. The owners of these houses now live in caves, storm shelters, or abandoned army dugouts and barracks. It will take a long time, possibly five years, to restore these houses.

Transportation must be restored before Russia can get on her feet industrially. Nearly half of all freight cars were destroyed by war, and it will take years to build cars to take their places.

The loss of human material was also terrific. The army was made up chiefly of young and middle-aged men, who are the best factory workers. The losses were so heavy that, according to a report by Peter Drucker in *Harper's* magazine, "no more than 10 or 12 million, out of a prewar total of close to 20 million workers, are available immediately for employment in

industry, transportation, and public utilities." Many workers are being taken from Germany to fill this gap, but slave labor of this kind is never very efficient.

Despite these handicaps, Russia can probably, within 15 or 20 years, put her vast resources to use and develop great industrial power. The Russian leaders have plans for doing this. They hope that, by around 1960, their factories may be producing almost as much as America is now producing.

But to achieve this result they must give most of their attention to the building of factories and railroads and tools of various kinds. They cannot greatly increase the production of consumer goods; that is, goods such as food, clothing, home electrical appliances, and so on. Until such goods are turned out in great quantities, the

with plans for making use of the vast Russian resources, and with the development of a great industrial nation.

It is obvious, therefore, that it will be to the interest of Russia to avoid another war. That does not necessarily mean, though, that the nation will not plunge into conflict. Rulers, especially if they are dictators, sometimes turn to war, contrary to the interests of the people. The German rulers have done that twice during recent years. But the fact that war would interfere with the primary aim of the Soviet rulers, that is the ambition to develop Russia's vast resources, gives at least some assurance to those who hope that the Soviet officials will try to preserve peace.

At any rate, we have reason to believe that the Russians may prefer peace for some time to come. Time,

tary strength for their future needs.

If it is to Russia's interest to stay at peace, it may be asked, why is she so aggressive today? Those observers who are convinced that Russia does not want another war any more than we do answer the above question as follows:

"While the Soviet leaders know that a third world conflict would be a catastrophe for their country as well as for the rest of the world, they will try by all measures short of war to accomplish certain long-range goals. Despite the great land area of their country, they feel an urgent need for more warm water ports upon which they can depend at all times. They will make a determined effort to gain effective control over the Dardanelles waterway through Turkey, and to expand their influence over the Mediterranean. They may try to gain possession of a corridor through Iran to the Persian Gulf. They will continue in the attempt to extend their control over warm water ports in Manchuria.

"In addition, the Russians will keep on exerting a dominating influence over eastern Europe. Twice in their recent history, they have been invaded from this direction, and they are determined to prevent this from ever happening again. They insist upon making eastern Europe a great defense barrier against any possible combination of enemy armies.

They Point to U. S.

"The Russians feel that these goals are as vital to their national security as are certain goals which the American people have set forth for their protection. They point to the fact that the United States has long coastlines on two oceans, offering an abundance of warm water ports; that our country plays a dominating role in the entire Western Hemisphere; that we insist upon maintaining bases thousands of miles from our shores in the Pacific and Atlantic; that we have exclusive control over the Panama Canal, which is equivalent to the Dardanelles waterway; that we are 'really running the show' in Japan, and that we are exercising great influence in China."

Rightly or wrongly, according to the observers whose views we have been expressing, these are the reasons why Russia feels that she has a right to go ahead with the foreign policy which she is now pursuing. However, these observers think, the Soviet leaders will make compromises in order to avoid a major war if the other large nations will do likewise. Important as these goals are in the minds of the Soviet leaders, it is not believed that they are considered as important as the task of making Russia a great and prosperous industrial nation. Such a task, of course, can be carried out only if there is a long period of peace.

The viewpoint which has been stressed in this article is not accepted by a great many people. They feel that Russia is engaged in a determined campaign of world aggression and domination. We have discussed their arguments a number of times during the school year. This article has been devoted to an explanation of Russia's basic problems, of the reasoning behind her foreign policy, and of the position held by those observers who believe there is hope of preventing a conflict between Russia and the western powers.



THE AMERICAN PEOPLE are divided on this question

standards of living of the Russian people—standards which have always been very low—cannot be raised very much.

Since 1928, Russian leaders have followed a rigid plan of industrialization. For 18 years they have been building factories and tools and transportation systems, and have not produced many consumer goods for the people. The Russian people are tired of such a program. Many of the soldiers found out for the first time, during the war, how far Russia is below most other nations in standards of living. Whether Russia can go ahead building industries and neglecting the production of goods for consumers, without expecting a wave of discontent among the people, is a problem not yet answered.

If the people cooperate, however, the present Russian plans for developing their resources and making their nation great and powerful in industry can probably be carried on successfully if there is not another great war. War would mean devastation and destruction again. It would interfere

in a way, is on their side. Russia is increasing in population more rapidly than the western European nations and the United States are. The Russian population is now about 190 million. It is estimated that by 1970, it will be 250 million.

How much this will mean in a military way is hard to determine. In the past, a nation's military power has been largely in proportion to the number of men it could enlist in its armies—that is, provided it was industrially developed so as to supply the armies.

This may not be true in the wars of the future, which will probably be fought largely with atomic bombs and other scientific devices. The victors in future wars will probably be the nations of highest scientific development, not the ones with the largest populations. Moreover, it must be remembered that the faster Russia's population increases, the harder that nation will have to work to give all the people a good standard of living. But the Russians may feel that greater numbers will give them greater mili-

Readers Say—

After reading John W. Studebaker's article on "No More Summer Vacations?" we disagree with him.

Mr. Studebaker says that summer vacations cause juvenile delinquency. That is not so. Many teen-age canteens and recreation centers have been started to check delinquency. Furthermore, many students are not idle during the summer. Almost all are either working at full-time or part-time jobs.

Instead of shorter vacations, maybe they can be made longer.

FIFTY-FIVE STUDENTS,
Reading, Pennsylvania.

It is my sincere belief that a world government is the only way to maintain peace. Since the UN was organized, I have tried to place implicit faith in it, but I find this increasingly difficult.

My main criticism is directed against the veto power of the Big Five, which the Big Five can use against a call for strong action to settle a dispute even if they are involved. To me this is like letting a man on trial for his life act as a member of the jury. Unless he is very fair or very foolish, he will vote "not guilty."

Some observers say we should not expect perfection in the UN. However, looking at the world in its present condition, it isn't hard to see that an efficient, smooth running UN is now desperately needed.

IRENE HAGSTROM,
Chicago, Illinois.

I appreciate very much your articles on politics. As we are in high school, we need to know more about the things that are going on in the world so that we will become better citizens.

BETTY DELLON,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

I would like to discuss the article, "For Many America Is Not a Land of Opportunity," which was digested in the May 6 issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

The article states that millions of people are denied one opportunity that is their inalienable right—education. I myself believe that they have not been denied such opportunity. In this country one is free to educate himself. The people who are not educated have never taken advantage of our public schools and public libraries. If they did this, I think we Americans would be prepared for the demands made on us as citizens and as individuals.

STAN KARLING,
Miami, Florida.

As one who would have to bear arms in any conflict involving the United States, I was interested in your article "Your Stake in a Sound U. S. Foreign Policy." I cannot but compliment you on the motives behind the essay, the urging of youth to better and bigger efforts for peace. Nevertheless, by your frequent references to Russia, and by your general tone, you have defeated the very purpose of your effort. After reading the article one does not want to work for peace, but feels the inevitability of armed conflict with the U. S. S. R.

Of course, we should face the possibility of a next war, and the awful things it would bring, but to emphasize continually the misunderstandings of the U. S. and Russia serves no purpose but to build distrust of Russia and pessimism for the cause of peace.

RODERICK ROBERTSON,
Los Angeles, California.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We regret that we have been unable to publish all the letters which have come to us. If a letter of yours has not been published, don't be disappointed, for merit has not been the only basis for our selections. We have had to consider timeliness, length, variety of topics, representation of students in all parts of the country, and other such factors.

As for merit, we have been impressed with the quality of all the letters we have received. They show that American youth is thinking and has a healthy interest in public affairs. We shall continue publishing letters sent in by our summer readers, and shall look forward to hearing from the rest of you in the fall. Meanwhile, thanks for your contributions this school year.

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Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by the AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"Gromyko—Soviet Power Man," by Homer Metz, *The Christian Science Monitor Magazine*.

"Just what sort of man is Andrei Gromyko, Soviet representative on the United Nations Security Council?"

Mr. Gromyko is dark-complexioned, black-haired, and well dressed. When he is off duty, he is likely to be as human and pleasant as the next man. He lives with his attractive wife and his two young daughters at a New York hotel, and he also has a home in a quiet Washington suburb.

When he is in Washington, Andrei Gromyko often plays volley ball with some of his Russian associates. He also is addicted to chess and stamp collecting. Once in a while he is seen at a neighborhood movie house.

Born in Minsk in 1909, Mr. Gromyko was graduated from the Soviet Institute of Economics. For a short time he lectured at the Russian Academy of Sciences and then he went to work in the Moscow Foreign Office. He climbed the diplomatic ladder until now he is one of Russia's leading foreign officials.

"Needed: A World University," by Sheldon Glueck, *This Week*.

The League of Nations buildings in Geneva, Switzerland, could be used by the United Nations to found a world university where every nation could send instructors and students. It could be "a common intellectual enterprise to break down the religious, racial, and cultural prejudices that breed hatreds and wars."

"It would examine the ideas which have caused wars in our century and clarify them. Socialism, communism, capitalism, racism, democracy, aggression—all the concepts which mean different things to different people—would be honestly defined."

Within a short time, the work of such a university "would exert a powerful influence for international friendship based on a real understanding of the problems of all the different peoples of the earth."

"Youth Gets Look at Seamy Side," by Alice Partridge, *The Washington Post*.

Because Judge John L. Kelly of Buffalo, New York, believes that education should be practical, he holds special

court sessions over the week end so that the city's youth can attend—and they come by the hundreds.

These sessions "provide a first-hand knowledge of the workings of American law and American courts; they give youngsters an insight into unpleasant sides of life which he thinks should make them more appreciative of their own advantages, and they show criminals as they really are."

"After the cases are disposed of, Judge Kelly calls the young spectators to the bench for a talk on American law and court procedure. He emphasizes that 'fundamentally crime is not humorous; neither is it attractive.' A question period follows in which the young people show a keen interest in Judge Kelly's explanation of his decisions."

"The Town Meeting Idea," by Harold E. Stassen, *The New York Times Magazine*.

Republican Open Forums give to the members of that party an opportunity to express their views on public questions to their leaders. Each month the Republican Open Forum headquarters in Washington chooses a major vital question for discussion. It gathers information on this subject and sends it to forums—discussion groups of about 25 people—which have been or are being organized throughout the country.

The local discussion groups are furnished with a booklet, telling how to run a forum, and with ballots so that every member can indicate his opinion on the subject after attending a meeting. The ballots are then sent to the national forum headquarters where they are available to party leaders interested in the opinions of the voters.

In the few weeks that the program has been under way, forums have "sprung up in 35 states. They have been particularly active on college campuses, in veterans' clubs, women's organizations, and in Young Republican groups."

"Sandusky, Ohio, Girls Study in Palace," *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

Sandusky, Ohio, "high school girls learn the modern method of successful homemaking at the Follett House, a part of the public school system and one of the city's oldest dwellings. The Follett House, a mansion built in 1838, was one of the stations in the famed underground railroad."



WORLD UNIVERSITY. A world university, where national prejudice and intolerance might be overcome, has been suggested as a tenant for the League of Nations' buildings at Geneva.



TASTES GOOD! High schools are providing valuable training in home economics.

Today the home is used by the high school home economics department, and hundreds of girls have mastered the art of good housekeeping by operating the building as a large and definitely modern home.

"The girls plan and prepare meals on a budget, both for themselves and guests; wash and iron; clean the house daily and not only study the selection, arrangement, and care of equipment and furniture in the many rooms but occasionally refinish and recover odd pieces on hand."

"Classes in family relationships and child care include demonstrations on baby bathing, dressing and care, and a two-week kindergarten operated to give the girls practical experience in the care of preschool children." Other schools are establishing similar homes.

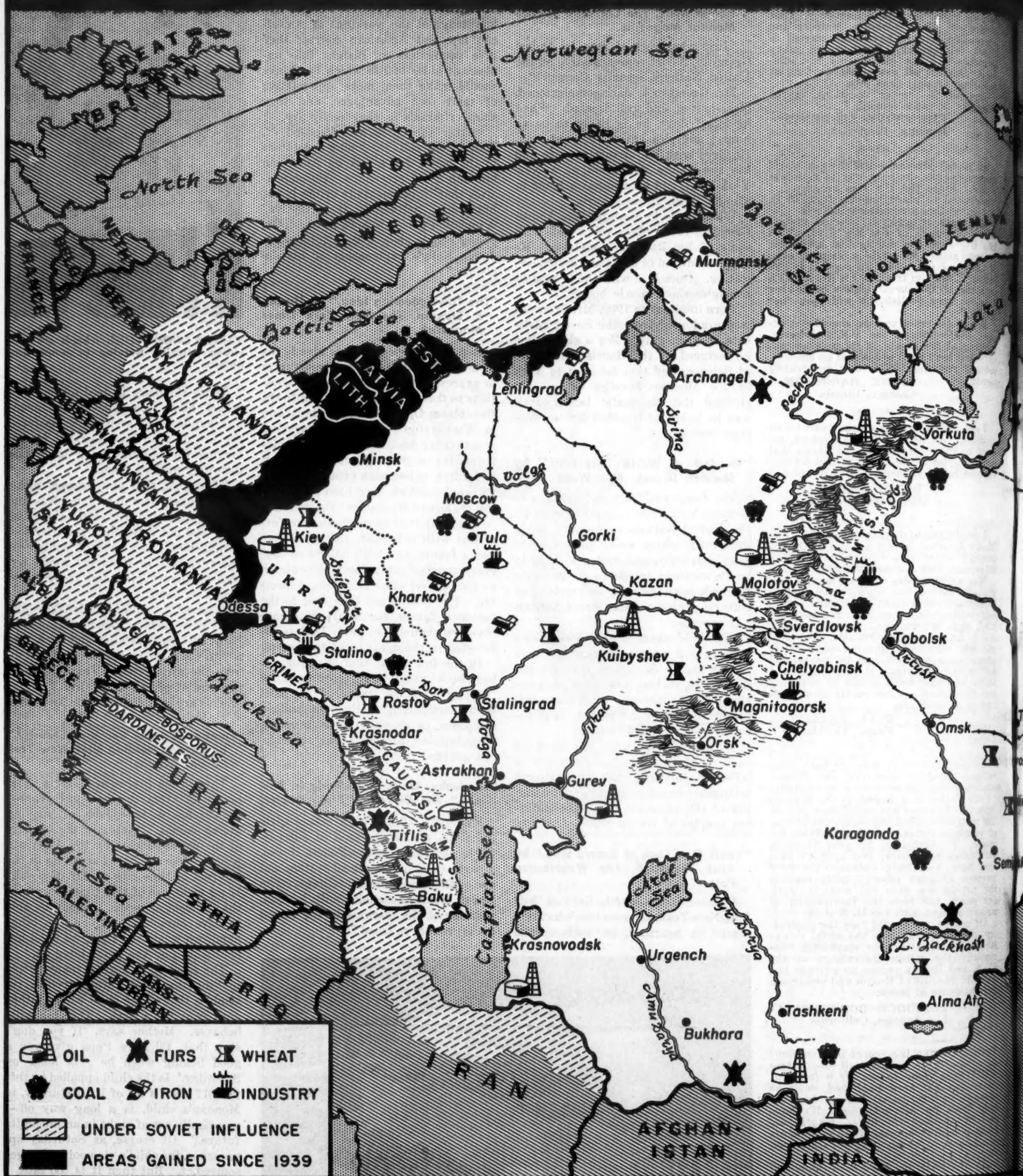
"Danger in False Sense of Security," by George Fielding Eliot, *New York Herald Tribune*.

The United States has—for a short period of from two to eight years—the exclusive know-how of making atomic bombs. "Actually, the security of the world—including the American people—depends on what we do in the interval of time now at our disposal." If we make use of this time to work at the problem of peace, we may be able to save ourselves. If, on the other hand, we waste the time, we shall undoubtedly pay the price later on.

The reaction of a great many people to "the threat of future trouble resembles that of the child whose father goes away for a week. The child misbehaves. Mother says, 'If you don't stop that, I'll have Papa give you a good licking when he gets home on Saturday.' Is the child appalled by this threat? Not a bit of it. Saturday, to Monday's child, is a long way off—practically out of sight in an indefinite future." Of course, as Saturday approaches, the child's viewpoint changes somewhat. But then it is too late.

Is this generation willing to make sacrifices in order to save our nation and the world from destruction? "It is up to the citizen—it is up to you. Nobody is going to bear your share of the burden for you."

THE UNION OF SOVIET SO



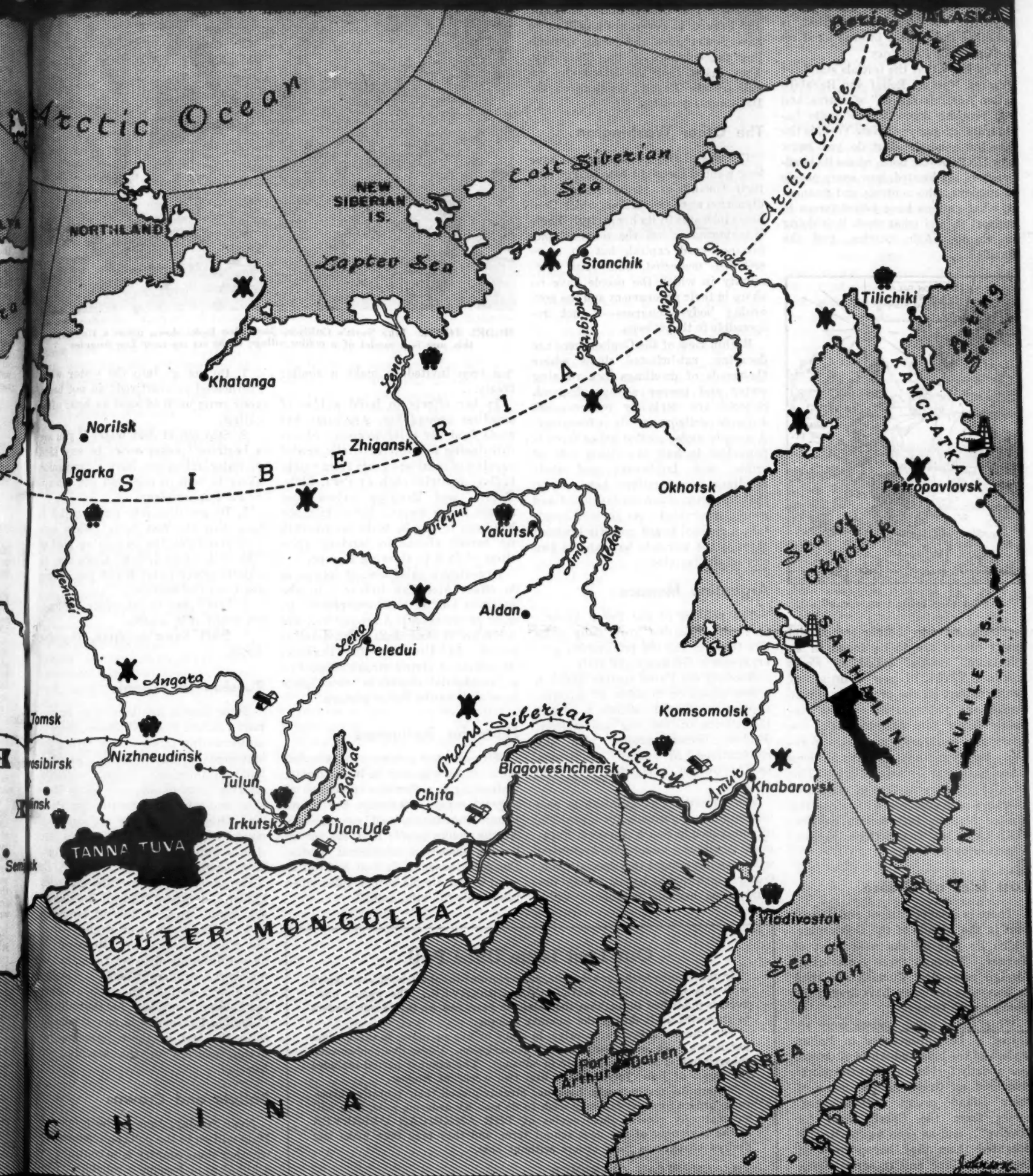
THE LARGEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics occupies one-sixth of the land area of the world, and is the largest country in the world. For the most part, the country is a vast plain stretching from the middle of Europe to the Pacific Ocean. The low Ural mountains break the plain north of the Caspian Sea, and there are mountains in the south and west.

Russia has almost all known minerals within her territory. Her forest wealth is great, and includes all types of trees except tropical varieties. Agriculturally, Russia also has great wealth. The Ukraine, in the south of European Russia, is one of the largest tracts of fertile land in the world. Russia's climate is so varied that

almost all grains, fruits, and vegetables will grow in some part of the country. The Soviet has large resources of oil, coal, and hydroelectric power.

This vast and rich country, however, has two geographic weaknesses—the lack of a natural boundary along her European border, and the lack of outlets to the sea which are free from ice the year around. Both these defects color Russia's thinking and her actions. The lack of a natural boundary in Europe has exposed Russia to foreign invasions. There have been two by the Germans in the last 25 years. To protect herself, Russia is now sponsoring friendly governments in the countries which lie along her borders.

SOALIST REPUBLICS TODAY



The lack of ice-free ports explains Russia's interest in the Dardanelles, where she hopes to push through to the Mediterranean. It explains part of her interest in Iran, where she may hope to push through to the Indian Ocean. It also partially explains her interest in Manchuria and Korea, where she hopes to gain greater access to the Pacific Ocean.

(You may want to save this map and put it on your wall at home to use in following news developments this summer. It can be detached by putting the paper flat on the table, lifting page 1 while holding the rest of the paper flat, and tearing page 1 off at the fold. Turn the paper over and similarly tear off page 8.)

Pronunciations

Archangel—ark-ayn'juhl

Baku—bah-koo'

Caucasus—kaw'ka-sus

Crimea—cry-me'ah

Dnieper—nee'puhr

Kamchatka—kam-chat'kuh

Vladivostok—vlah'di-vos-tok

Kharkov—khar'kof

Kiev—kee'yef

Kuibyshev—kwee'bi-shef

Magnitogorsk—mahg-ni-to-gorsk'

Murmansk—moor'mahnsk'

Sakhalin—sah-hah-leen'

The Story of the Week

Story of UNRRA

How much do you know about UNRRA, the organization that is handling the largest international relief operation in history?

You know that the initials stand for "United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration," of course, and you probably know that Fiorello LaGuardia, ex-mayor of New York, is the director general. But do you know how UNRRA was born, where its headquarters are located, how many people it employs, who controls and finances it, what nations have joined forces to support it, and what work it is doing in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific?



"Get thee behind us, Satan"

The answers to these questions and many others are to be found in an illustrated booklet called *50 Facts about UNRRA*, a new printing of which is just off the press. In simple words and photographs of real dramatic flavor this pamphlet tells the story of a world-wide campaign to restore health and hope to many millions of people in war-devastated areas. The booklet will be sent free of charge to teachers and students who write the United Nations Information Service, UNRRA, 1344 Connecticut Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

Lost Isles of Greece

There is disappointment and discontent in the islands of the Dodecanese, which lie just off the west coast of Turkey. Through three centuries of foreign rule—first Turkish and then Italian—the islanders have longed for reunion with Greece.

While Italy ruled, houses were required to be whitewashed in Italian style, and the blue-and-white of Greece was strictly forbidden. But the people remained as Greek as the name of their island group ("Dodecanese" comes from the Greek word for "twelve"), and as soon as the British liberated them they began to paint their walls blue and to scrawl large signs asking for union with "Mother Greece."

All the Big Four powers agreed that the islands should return to their old motherland, but the people are unhappy because no definite moves have yet been made in that direction. A full year after V-E day they continue to be governed by British army officers.

The delay is caused by the Big

Four's disagreement on one point. Russia demands a naval base in the islands. The United States, Britain, and France, however, are unwilling to have Soviet guns and planes controlling the entrance to the Black Sea. They insist that the islands be demilitarized. Result: deadlock on the Dodecanese question.

The Other Washington

Citizens of the nation's capital have long wanted the right to vote, but now their demands are strengthened by indignation at the conditions which Congress tolerates in its home city. Their Washington is not the tourists' picture-post-card capital, but an overcrowded, neglected, badly run community in which the people have no share in their government and the governing body—Congress—is not responsible to the citizens.

Within view of the Capitol there are decaying, rat-infested slums where thousands of dwellings lack running water and proper sewage disposal. Schools are seriously overcrowded. Juvenile delinquency is widespread. A greatly under-staffed police force is powerless to halt the rising tide of crime, and jail-breaks and their resultant investigations have shown that the prisons are old-fashioned and poorly supervised. As for the hospitals, a medical board recently branded them as the worst to be found in any city of similar size.

Argentine Menace

The policies of the Peron government in Argentina grow daily more like those of the old totalitarian governments in Germany and Italy.

Recently the Peron regime launched a new attack on freedom of thought, appointing federal officials to direct the affairs of the big universities. Student demonstrations, plus the resignations of many professors, testify to the unpopularity of the action.

The Argentine government is also campaigning vigorously for a position of dominance in South America. Paraguay is already under the Argentine wing, having agreed to a special trade treaty which makes her extremely dependent on her big neighbor. Chile



MODEL TOWN. Like Swift's Gulliver, Jane Doe looks down upon a tiny town—this one is a model of a trailer village to be set up near Los Angeles

has been invited to make a similar treaty.

In her efforts to build a bloc of satellites around her, Argentina has made food her chief weapon. She is threatening to withhold vitally needed supplies of meat and grain from neighboring countries such as Peru, Chile, Bolivia, and Uruguay unless they agreed to her terms. Meanwhile, she has been trying to build up goodwill for herself abroad by sending quantities of food to starving Europe.

Argentina's chief aim, of course, is to offset American influence in the southern half of the hemisphere. In most of the countries around her, she has tried to block democratic developments. In Uruguay, for example, Argentina is giving strong support to a presidential candidate whose platform follows the Peron pattern.

Hints for Swimmers

With summer coming on, the swimming season will soon be in full swing. Swimming is a favorite recreation of a great many Americans, but it can bring tragedy as well as pleasure. Among young people it is the second leading cause of accidental deaths. For this reason it is well to keep in mind a few simple safety rules when you decide to "take a dip."

1. Do not go into the water when overheated or overtired; do not begin your swim until at least an hour after eating.

2. Stay out of deep water if you are a beginner; never swim in any kind of water unless you have a companion along to help in case you get cramps or have an accident.

3. Do not dive into water which is less than five feet deep. Make sure that you know the swimming pool or lake well before diving—there may be objects under water which you cannot see from the surface.

4. Don't stay in the water too long, especially if it is cold.

5. Don't swim in dirty, stagnant water.

Russian in Schools

Since Russia has become so important a nation in world affairs, there is an increasing interest in studying the language of that country. About a hundred American colleges are already offering courses in elementary Russian, and schools in Seattle and Portland, Oregon, are doing the same. A number of other high schools are closely watching the Seattle and Portland experiments.

However, a number of obstacles hinder widespread study of Russian at this time. It is a difficult language and—unlike German or French—it is not related to English. Moreover, it uses a different alphabet from that to which we are accustomed. Finally, there is a serious shortage of good textbooks and teachers for the subject. Columbia University is now trying to solve the last of these problems by giving courses in the teaching of Russian.

Ballots and Crowns

Next Sunday, June 2, the people of Italy will go to the polls and determine whether their country is to continue as a kingdom or become a republic. The monarch who may lose his throne is 41-year-old Humbert II. He has held it only since May 9, the day his father abdicated and left the country.

Victor Emanuel, the old king, knew that his people blamed their worst misfortunes on him, for he had appointed Mussolini premier in 1922, and in 1940 he had signed the declaration of war which made Italy an active

Our Last Issue Until Fall

In accordance with our schedule, subscriptions for the school year expire with this issue of *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER*. The paper, however, is published throughout the calendar year, and we invite our readers to subscribe to it during the summer months.

The summer subscription price, in clubs of five or more, is three cents per copy a week, or 33 cents for each subscription. Under five copies, each subscription is 50 cents, payable in advance. The summer period includes the issues of June, July, and the first two weeks of August.

Meanwhile, teachers who have not already placed their tentative classroom orders for next fall may wish to do so. By ordering now, they will automatically receive their copies of *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER* at the beginning of the next school term, and they may then make any desired changes in their orders without cost.

THE AMERICAN OBSERVER

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ally of Hitler. He felt, therefore, that the only way he could hope to save the crown for his family, the House of Savoy, was to abdicate in favor of his more popular son. In doing so, he became the fifth living European monarch to lose his throne during World War II. Carol of Romania, Peter of Yugoslavia, Zog of Albania, and the boy-king Simeon of Bulgaria had already joined the army of the royal unemployed.

The fate of still another king, George II of Greece, will be decided by the vote of the people next September 1. Like the Italians, the Greeks have never been entirely satisfied with their monarchs, and it is quite possible that they will establish a republic.

For Summer Vacation

There is available a 34-page book list which could be a valuable guide for you in selecting books for summer reading. It is called *Books for Young People*, and is compiled by the New York City Public Library. A letter to the Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y., with 10 cents enclosed, will get one for you. The list contains titles on a variety of subjects, including science, exploration, flying, yachting, art, music, poetry, novels, plays, essays, humor, and the nations of both hemispheres.

There are two new books which readers of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER will find as interesting as they are helpful. One is *Now You're Talking*, by Harrison Karr (Griffin-Patterson Company, Glendale, California \$1.50). It is full of excellent suggestions—and clever illustrations—which point the way to more interesting, effective, and poised speech. It is not a manual for public speakers, rather a guide for improving everyday conversation.

Harris Wofford, Jr., the 19-year-old founder of the Student Federalist movement, has written a challenging book, largely for the nation's high school and college students. Published just recently, it is called *It Is Up To*



HUME CRONYN, Selena Royle, Gladys Cooper and Dean Stockwell in a scene from *The Green Years*, a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture

Us (Harcourt, Brace \$2). In it, he tells the story of the Student Federalists, from the time it was just an idea until it became the nationwide organization it is today. He also explains why he and other Student Federalists believe that citizenship under one world government is not only a possibility, but a necessity.

A pamphlet which our readers will find useful in choosing and planning summer recreational activities is *Time on Your Hands*, published by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, 1201 16th Street NW, Washington 6, D. C. The cost is 25 cents.

Phones and Motorists

Telephoning from an automobile? It's easy in St. Louis, Missouri, and it will be just as easy in other cities before the year is out. For \$25 the telephone company will install the vehicle radio apparatus in your car, and then you can talk to any telephone subscriber in the country as you drive along the road.

When you wish to call someone, you take the instrument from the hook, press the "talk" button, and give the mobile-service operator the number you want—either the number of a house phone or the call number of another motorist. And that's all there is to it. When someone calls you, a green light on your dashboard flashes the signal.

The new system combines radio and wire transmission. Radio is employed where it is impossible to use wire—between the car and the mobile operator, for instance. Elsewhere the regular telephone connections are used.

The only drawback is that the service charges of \$15 a month make the vehicle phone too expensive for most of us. At the present stage of its development, it will probably be used chiefly by firms which operate fleets of trucks, buses, or cabs.

Freedom for India?

Whether India is to have civil war or a peaceful solution to her political problems is being decided as this paper goes to press. Amid tense excitement, Indian leaders are considering Britain's latest offer of independence, announced a few days ago after the Indians themselves had spent six fruitless weeks trying to draw up an agreement with British officials.

The British offer is simple. If the two chief groups in India—Hindus

and Moslems—will compromise their differences, unite as a single nation, and draw up their own constitution, Britain will grant the freedom which Indians have so long demanded. To help India draft a new constitution, Britain suggests this plan of government:

India would have a central government with an executive and a legislature made up of representatives both from the native Indian states and from the provinces which Britain now controls. This government would handle foreign affairs, defense, communications, and the financing of such matters. The states and provinces would have governments of their own and control all other affairs. Thus, although the Moslems would not have the separate state—Pakistan—which they want, they would have considerable self-government within the provinces in which they are a majority.

Neither the Moslems nor the Hindus are particularly pleased with this plan. Nevertheless, all observers agree that India is on the very brink of revolution and war, and realization of this fact may force Indian leaders to compromise and accept this latest offer of independence.

The Green Years

A new movie, *The Green Years*, will be of especial interest to those who enjoyed *David Copperfield*. Produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, the picture concerns the life of an orphan boy who grows up in Scotland.

Charles Coburn, noted for his superior performances on the stage and screen, has star billing. Others in the cast include Tom Drake, Beverly Tyler, Hume Cronyn, and Gladys Cooper.

Science in Sweden

Peace-loving Sweden may become an important center for atomic research in the near future, for Sweden is perhaps the only country in the world where scientists are free to experiment with atomic energy without military or governmental restrictions.

Since our federal government set up the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb, scientists working with atomic energy in this country have been closely supervised. Now that the war is over, scientists are complaining that our research is falling behind because of the restrictions.

Some observers wonder whether the freedom in Sweden may not entice scientists from other countries to go

there to work. It is remembered that many brilliant scientists left Germany and came to the United States because of the restrictions placed upon them by the Nazis. German science suffered, and ours was enriched.

The observers fear that now we may lose some of our foremost men of science to such countries as Sweden, unless means are quickly found to control the military uses of atomic energy, while leaving scientists free to experiment with its peacetime uses.

Corrections

We regret that an error appeared in the article on politics in the April 29 issue of this paper. We said, "At no time in American history has the party which won the mid-term congressional election failed to win the White House in the presidential election two years later." As a matter of fact, in the election of 1878, during Hayes' administration, the Democrats won both houses of Congress, yet in the following presidential election in 1880 Garfield, a Republican, was victor.

We should also like to note that the movie *Blue Sierra*—reviewed in this paper last week—has been renamed. It will come to your theaters under the title *Courage of Lassie*.

SMILES

"The best way to enjoy perfect health is to rise at five every morning and have a cold bath," says a doctor.

Oh, well, what's the next best way?

★ ★ ★

He: "Well, how do you like the ball game?"

She: "Isn't that pitcher grand? He hits their bats, no matter how they hold them."



"That's Mr. Steger. He's the key man around here"

A fiery tempered businessman wrote the following letter:

"Sir, my stenographer, being a lady, cannot type what I think of you. I, being a gentleman, cannot say it. You, being neither, will understand what I mean."

★ ★ ★

Science Prof: "What happens when a body is immersed in water?"

Student: "The telephone rings!"

★ ★ ★

"Young man," said the old lady to the grocery clerk, "how do you sell your limburger cheese?"

"Madam," replied the clerk, "I sometimes wonder about that myself."

★ ★ ★

Patient: "Doctor, are you sure I have pneumonia? Doctors have been known to prescribe for pneumonia and the patient died of something else."

Doctor (irritatedly): "When I prescribe for pneumonia, they die of pneumonia!"

★ ★ ★

Prof: "What in your estimation was the greatest achievement of the Romans?"

Sophomore: "I'd say it was speaking Latin."

★ ★ ★

Customer: "Mrs. Jackson has a most magnetic personality, hasn't she?"

Grocer: "Yes, everything she carries out of here is charged."



A CHILD OF EUROPE. This Flemish girl gratefully accepts a cup of milk provided by Americans to help fight famine abroad.

Five National Veteran Organizations

(Concluded from page 1)

and influence, and its 14,000 posts reach into almost every city and town in the nation.

The Legion also can point to a successful record of obtaining favorable legislation for veterans. It was the power of the Legion that put over the World War I bonus, and that organization worked hard for a generous GI Bill of Rights (the law granting various types of payments and assistance to servicemen and veterans of World War II).

Throughout the period between wars, the Legion was a very active force in American life, and, as its size grows, it promises to become even more influential and powerful. In small towns, particularly, Legion activities are closely tied in with community affairs. Local posts often sponsor Boy Scout troops, baseball teams, oratorical contests, citizenship schools, essay contests, and so on.

There are few major questions on which the Legion does not take a decided stand. For example, it has



John Stelle, head of the American Legion

come out in favor of such matters as universal military training, a strong national defense, closing the doors of the United States to immigration, and driving "un-American" individuals, groups, and activities out of our national life.

The Legion has always considered itself a guardian of Americanism, and has taken a keen interest in whether schools teach the kind of "American ideals" in which the Legion believes. Some critics feel that the Legion is too narrow in its attitude; that it has attacked as "un-American" many people who merely disagree with the Legion on what is best for our country. Supporters of this organization reply that its members fought for the nation and that they therefore have a special right to decide what's good or bad for it.

It should be understood, of course, that not all members of the American Legion see eye to eye. There are differences of opinion within any organization. But the leadership of the Legion has taken the general position which we have described on subjects of national concern.

Founded in 1899, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is the oldest of the large veteran groups. Today its membership is about 1,750,000 and it is giving the Legion a close race for new members. It is distinctive in that it admits only men (not women) who have served overseas.

The VFW has always taken a strong

lead in seeking favorable treatment for servicemen and veterans. Today, it is promoting a campaign for a World War II bonus running up to a maximum of \$5,000.

On national and international subjects, the VFW often takes a strong stand. In general its point of view is similar to that taken by the American Legion.

The Disabled American Veterans is the smallest of the "Big Three" veteran organizations. Founded in 1920, it stands on one basic principle—that disabled veterans can best serve their own interest through combination. By its nature, the DAV is automatically limited in size, but it now claims 100,000 members, and expects to have twice that many in a few months.

Most DAV members also belong to other veteran organizations—an estimated 90 per cent of them are now Legionnaires. Thus, the majority of DAV members share the views of the Legion. However, as an organization, the DAV avoids most political issues and confines itself to securing benefits and favorable laws for the disabled ex-serviceman.

In addition to these three organizations, there are many new veterans' groups which recruit members only from those who served in the recent war. Among such groups, only two are yet outstanding—the American Veterans of World War II (Amvets), and the American Veterans' Committee (AVC).

Started as a Club

Amvets traces its history back to 1943, when a veteran-student in the nation's capital started a club. In 1944 this infant veteran group united with eight other similar ones and became a national organization. Today it claims some 50,000 members.

Like older groups, Amvets is devoted primarily to furthering the interests of veterans. Thus far its chief campaign has been to secure government housing projects in and around Washington for use by veterans. In addition, however, Amvets has come out for the government's national housing program, for OPA, and for suffrage in the District of Columbia. Up to this point, its leadership seems to be decidedly more favorable to government participation in the nation's economic life than is the leadership of the American Legion.

"Citizens first, veterans second." That's the slogan of the American Veterans' Committee—and that's what makes it so much different from all other veterans' groups. One of its 50,000 members summarizes AVC's feeling in this way:



Jack Hardy, head of the American Veterans of World War II, the Amvets

"When we say 'Citizens first, veterans second,' we mean it. We act it. We believe the veteran should not benefit at the expense of the rest of the community. We believe the veteran is best helped by measures which help the community as a whole—and the veteran as part of the community.

"For instance, AVC holds that a full employment bill, as originally indorsed by President Truman, is a better solution to the veterans' economic problems than a bonus."

AVC is also different from other veteran organizations in that it follows a no-discrimination membership policy. All World War II veterans, regardless of race or creed, are free to join.

AVC has attracted much attention because of its vigorous action on controversial subjects. For example, it strongly supported a permanent Fair Employment Practice Act (the measure to guarantee equal job opportunities for all workers regardless of race or creed). It organized a picket line against the senators who filibustered to kill the measure. It held a public meeting, addressed by two atomic scientists, to urge civilian control of atomic energy and to plead for an end to the production of atomic bombs.

AVC is critical of other veteran organizations. It does not approve of their policy of promoting veterans' interests ahead of those of the community at large. In addition, it feels that they are too "conservative"—that they too often oppose needed social and economic changes. Because of this point of view, many members of other veteran groups consider AVC "idealist" and "crackpot."

These are the organizations which are now making their appeal to veterans who want to work together in special groups.



HEADS OF VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS. From left to right: Dow Walker of the Disabled American Veterans, Charles Bolte of the American Veterans' Committee, and Joseph Stack of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Study Guide

Veterans

1. Why do many ex-servicemen join special veteran organizations?
2. On what major questions does the American Legion take a strong stand?
3. What are the chief interests of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and of the American Veterans of World War II (Amvets)?
4. Explain the meaning of the slogan, "Citizens first, veterans second," used by the American Veterans Committee (AVC).
5. What measures are supported by the AVC?
6. What are some of the criticisms that AVC makes of other veteran groups?

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not think that veterans are justified in organizing into special groups for the purpose of furthering their interests and of influencing political affairs?
2. If you were an ex-serviceman or woman, which of the national veteran organizations, if any, do you think you would join? Why?
3. Of the veterans you know, do you think they have received a fair deal since they have returned to civilian life?

Russia

1. Why do some people think Russia is to blame for the lack of cooperation among the great powers?
2. What reasons do people give for blaming Britain and the United States for lack of cooperation with Russia?
3. List some of Russia's natural resources.
4. Give facts to show that Russia, as a result of the war, must do tremendous repair work in her country.
5. Why is it likely that Russia will prefer peace rather than war at least during the next 15 years?
6. Is Russia's large population an advantage or a disadvantage so far as future wars are concerned?

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not believe that the reasons which are usually given to justify Soviet foreign policy are sound and reasonable?
2. The Russians accuse the United States of taking England's side too often in Soviet-British disputes. She contends that the two countries are "ganging up" on her. In your opinion, is this a false accusation?
3. Is it your belief that Russia will or will not stop "short of war" in pushing her foreign demands?

Miscellaneous

1. Why is there a deadlock over the question of returning the Dodecanese Islands to Greece?
2. What is Argentina doing to enable her to dominate neighboring countries?
3. What are some good rules to follow while swimming?
4. What are two reasons why King Victor Emanuel III became unpopular with many Italian people?
5. What are some facts which tend to prove that Washington is not a well governed city?